BC Environment
River Forecast Centre

Water Supply and Streamflow Conditions
Issued: September 29, 2009

Southern BC continued with warm and dry weather over the past week. As a result, streamflows in the Southern Interior have declined further from the previous week. The exception is the Nicola River above Nicola Lake, which has improved slightly from the previous week. It remains below normal, near a 2-3 year return period low flow. River levels on the South Coast and Vancouver Island have also declined but are near normal and do not present any low flow concerns. Areas of concern are:

- **Extremely Dry** (near or below previously recorded low for the date):
    - Kettle River and West Kettle River
    - Vaseux Creek and Whiteman Creek in the Okanagan
    - Chase Creek
- **Dry** (5-10+ year return period low flow)
    - South Thompson – Coldwater River, Salmon River, Seymour River, lower Shuswap River near Enderby
    - Okanagan - Camp Creek, Mission Creek and likely other ungauged rivers in the Okanagan
    - Tulameen River

Areas of Low Flow Concern:
Thompson Basin: No substantial precipitation has occurred in the basin over the past week. All of the gauged streams continue to be below or well below their median flows to date.

- The upper Nicola River has improved slightly to a 2-3 year return period low flow.
- The Coldwater River (Brookmere and Merritt) has dropped to below 10-year return period low flow.
- Chase Creek has declined to near the previously recorded low flow for the date.
- The Seymour River near Seymour Arm and Shuswap River near Enderby have fallen to 5-10 year return period low flows.
- The Salmon River near Salmon Arm and Falkland has fallen to approximately 10-20 year return period low flows.
- The South Thompson River at Chase continues to be at a 5-10 year return period low flow.

Okanagan River and Kettle River Basin: No significant precipitation has occurred in the Okanagan and Kettle basins over the past week.

- The Kettle River and West Kettle River at Westbridge are at or below their historic low flow of record. The Kettle River at Ferry (upstream of Grand Forks) is below its previous low flow of record
- Vaseux Creek (in the southern Okanagan, east of Oliver) and Whiteman Creek are near or below their historic low flow of record

- Camp Creek (west Okanagan valley)and Mission Creek (Kelowna) have dropped to near a 5-10 year return period low flows

Similkameen River Basin: No significant precipitation has occurred over the past week in the Similkameen and Tulameen basins.

- The Tulameen River has fallen to a 5-10 year return period low flow.
- The Similkameen River is near its median flow for the date.

South Coast: Although there was no significant precipitation on the South Coast, gauged rivers are at or near their median flows for the date. There are no low flow issues evident at this time.

Vancouver Island: There was no significant precipitation on Vancouver Island over the past week. However, gauged rivers are at or near their median flows for the date. There are no low flow issues evident at this time.

Outlook:
Beginning yesterday, a significant change in the weather occurred due to a trough of low pressure moving over the province. Temperatures have fallen to slightly below normal for the southern half of the province and are forecast to remain cool for the remainder of the week. The system has already brought precipitation to Vancouver Island and the South Coast yesterday, and showers and rainfall are expected to continue into the beginning of the weekend. In the South Interior, showers are forecast for today and Friday with periods of sun in between, but temperatures will remain cool. With the change in weather, river levels throughout the South Interior are expected to remain stable or improve, depending on the amount of precipitation received over the next week.